

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

RODNEY S. SMITH ET AL.

SERIAL NUMBER:

EXAMINER:

FILED: AUGUST 18, 2003

GROUP ART UNIT:

FOR: INFLATION VALVE ASSEMBLY FOR
A DUNNAGE OR CARGO AIR BAG

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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SIR:

In connection with the above-identified patent application, and the prosecution thereof before the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and in compliance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 CFR 1.56, Applicants hereby desire to make of record, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97, the following **PRIOR ART** of which Applicants are aware and which is also listed upon the attached **PTO FORM 1449**:

Lung-Po	6,138,711
Peters	5,839,488
Krier et al.	5,042,541

Information Disclosure Statement
INFLATION VALVE ASSEMBLY FOR A DUNNAGE OR CARGO AIR BAG
Rodney S. Smith et al.

The present invention, in connection with which the present patent application is being prosecuted, is directed toward an inflation valve assembly, for a dunnage or cargo air bag, comprising an annular flange member which is adapted to be heat-sealed to an interior surface portion of one of the plies of the inflatable bladder of the air bag, and an externally threaded nipple portion for fluidic connection to a source of pressurized fluid for inflating the bladder of the dunnage or cargo air bag. The inflation valve assembly also has a substantially C-shaped upstanding ring member integrally disposed upon the upper surface portion of the annular flange member, and a substantially planar, disc-type flapper valve member, having a substantially circular configuration, has an end portion which is adapted to be fixedly secured upon an arcuate portion of the upper surface portion of the annular flange member by means of a fixation bar which extends along a chordal extent of the annular flange member. Opposite end portions of the fixation bar project radially inwardly toward each other so as to effectively define a pair of oppositely disposed detents for maintaining the flapper valve member in its **OPENED** state. Accordingly, the height dimension or depth profile of the new and improved inflation valve assembly of the present invention is able to be substantially reduced so as to enable the inflation valve assembly to readily facilitate the sealing of the inflatable bladder during the fabrication thereof.

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While the cited **PRIOR ART** is relevant to the present invention in that the **PRIOR ART** discloses conventional airbag inflation valve assemblies, it is submitted that such **PRIOR ART** patent publications cited above do not disclose the particular aforenoted features of the present invention, and therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the examiner should merely consider such **PRIOR ART** in its proper perspective, make the same officially of record, and proceed with completion of the examination of this patent application.

Respectfully Submitted,
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